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MESSAGES FROM THE MARSH

The E-Newsletter of the MEADOWLANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTER, a New Jersey Meadowlands Commission Facility operated by Ramapo College of New Jersey

June 2006

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Thank you to all of the readers of this monthly newsletter. We appreciate the time you give to us when you read our monthly Messages from the Marsh.

In the near future we will be creating "program specific" electronic newsletters in support of our various departments and programs. Within our website there will be a page that will allow you to sign-up for these additional e-publications. In advance, we thank you for your continued interest in the activities of the Meadowlands Environment Center.

Education News: Project SEE, Science Fair Awards and NJMC Science Scholarships



Senior Environmental Experiences

The MEC and Ramapo College are pleased to welcome the Senior Center of Tenafly as the latest participant in Project SEE. During May, the Tenafly Center was visited by staff who presented Module One in the four

module series.

Launched in March 2005, Module One has been presented to 8 senior audiences.

Module Two was launched in December of 2005 and has been presented to 3 senior audiences.

NJMC Science Scholarships

Robert Ceberio, the Executive Director of the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission will be on hand to announce the names of and present awards to this years recipients of the NJMC Science Scholarship. The presentation ceremony will occur June 10th at 12:00 noon during Meadowfest.

Science Fair

Participants in the Second Annual Meadowlands Environmental Science Fair will be celebrated by Dr. Victoria Madden, representing the Center, during a 1:00 pm presentation ceremony at this months Meadowfest. The work of the participants will be on display in the Science Fair tent throughout the days event.

MarshAccess: Students with Disabilities & Adults with Disabilities

MarshAccess was created in summer 2005 as a pro- active initiative to ensure that the MEC is welcoming and accessible to people with disabilities. This model program for accessibility and assistive technologies will ensure that MEC facilities, materials, and programs are in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the IDEA – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and No Child Left Behind. MarshAccess is the umbrella term used to describe all activities, programs, and materials specially designed and implemented to accomplish this goal.

As part of our mission to establish partnerships with special education school programs to accommodate students with disabilities who require specialized adaptations and assistive technologies in order to participate, we welcomed the following schools who visited the MEC in May:

St. Joseph's School for the Blind

Ages: Birth through 21 years of age.
Location: Jersey City, Hudson County

Slocum/Skewes Elementary School

Grades: 3-8
Type: Public
Enrollment: 988
Location: Ridgefield, Bergen County

Norman S. Weir Elementary School

Grades: K-8
Type: Public
Enrollment: 570
Location: Paterson, Passaic County

As part of our mission to work with Meadowlands district and other community based organizations *serving adults with disabilities* to create new programs at the MEC, incorporating specialized adaptations and assistive technologies that would allow these individuals to participate, the following group attended programs at the MEC in May:

Spectrum for Living - Serving People with Developmental Disabilities

Facility: Westwood Group Home

Location: Westwood, Bergen County

Sustainable Meadowlands Resource Institute: Inaugural Seminar - It's the Money

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The Sustainable Meadowlands Resource Institute, a collaboration between the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission and Ramapo College of New Jersey is pleased to host its first United States Green Building Council seminar at the Meadowlands Environment Center.

**It's the Money:** Separating Green Fact from Fiction in the Design and Construction of Low-to-Mid-Rise Buildings.

Presented by: The NJ Chapter of the USGBC.

When: Friday, July 21st

Time: 7:45 to 8:30 am - registration, 8:30 am to Noon - Program

Tickets: \$99 - at the door, \$89 - in advance, \$79 - members of the USGBC.

Earn Educational Credits: AIA - 3 Learning Units, BOMI - 3 CPD Points, IFMA - Pending

Register online at: [squarefootage.net](http://squarefootage.net)

Questions about the seminar: 503-274-7162 (Corporate Realty, Design & Management Institute).

Additional sponsors: *Sustainable Meadowlands Resource Institute, Center for Sustainable Real Estate Commercial Building Products Corporate Realty, Design & Management Institute, Star Net Cooperative, Stevens Roofing Systems, Trenwyth, Business Environments and Allsteel.*

The Sustainable Meadowlands Resource Institute (SMRI) is committed to developing and maintaining an environment that enhances human health and fosters a transition toward sustainability. Sustainability should be advanced through research, analysis, and experience gained over time. Our economic future is linked to the integrity of natural systems.

## **Meet the Staff: Welcome Richard Then**

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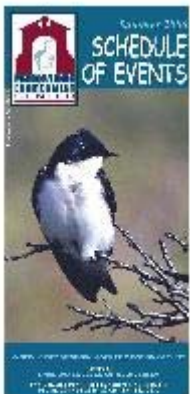


We welcome a new employee to the Meadowlands Environment Center. Richard Then has joined the Center as the Technology Specialist for the Center and the (future) Meadowlands Astronomical Observatory.

Richard will receive his BS in Computer Science from Ramapo College of New Jersey this summer. While at Ramapo, Richard was part of a team that worked on the renovation and expansion efforts of the Computer Lab at the Center. Richard is happy to continue his association with the Center as its newest employee.

Schedule of Events: June

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The Summer 2006 Schedule of Events (SOE) is now available for distribution. Hard copies of the brochure may be obtained in the lobby of the Center or by joining the Centers mailing list.

### **Meadowlands Yesterday and Today**

When: Saturday, June 3rd

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Ages: 10-12 years old, accompanied by an adult.

General Cost: \$10 covers one adult and one child; \$5 for each additional participant.

Member Cost: \$8 covers one adult and one child.

Note: Pre-Registration required.

**A "Dino-mite" Adventure**

When: Saturday, June 24th

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Ages: 4-8 years old, accompanied by an adult.

General Cost: \$10 covers one adult and one child; \$5 for each additional participant.

Member Cost: \$8 covers one adult and one child.

Note(s): Pre-Registration required.

**Aargh!! Pirate Tales and Buried Treasures**

When: Saturday, June 17th

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Ages: 10-12 years old, accompanied by an adult.

General Cost: \$10 covers one adult and one child; \$5 for each additional participant.

Member Cost: \$8 covers one adult and one child.

Note: Pre-Registration required.

[To view an electronic version of the schedule of events, please click here](#)**Programs for Kids: Summer Camp in the Meadowlands**

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During the months of July and August, kids from ages 6 to 13 will take part in the third annual Summer Camp in the Meadowlands. The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission's Meadowlands Environment Center will offer 4 environmentally themed week-long summer programs, each designed to explore the estuaries of the Hackensack River.

Marsh Explorers

When: July 10-14 or August 7-11

Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Ages: Entering Grades 1 & 2

Cost: \$100 per child

Hopping Through Habitats

When: July 10-14 or August 7-11

Time: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Ages: Entering Grades 3 & 4

Cost: \$150 per child

Upstream, Downstream

When: July 24-28 or August 14-18

Time: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Ages: Entering Grades 5 & 6

Cost: \$150 per child

*Both Upstream, Downstream sessions are closed, registration capacity has been met.***Water, Water Everywhere**

When: July 24-28 or August 14-18

Time: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Ages: Entering Grades 7 & 8

Cost: \$150 per child

[For detailed summer camp information, please click here.](#)

Programs for Older Adults: June Events

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Every Tuesday, starting in June and ending in September, afternoon or evening programs are scheduled that will intrigue, energize and revitalize your spirit.

All programs are free of charge, thanks to a supporting grant from the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission.

Programs will be closed from registration when attendance capacities have been met.

### Programs offered this month:

#### Naturalistic Gardening

When: Tuesday, June 6th

Time: 12:00 pm

Note: Pre-registration is required.

#### SEE the Meadowlands

When: Tuesday, June 13th

Time: 12:00 pm

Note: Pre-registration is required.

#### Dick Meldonian & the Big Swing Jazz Band

When: Tuesday, June 20th

Time: 7:00 pm

Note: Pre-registration is required.

#### Art of the Masters: Kandinsky

When: Tuesday, June 27th

Time: 7:00 pm

Note: Pre-registration is required.

[For detailed information on and to register online for the Summer Senior Series, please click here](#)

## Members Only: Special Event

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The Meadowlands Environment Center receives no state or federal funding for its facilities or programming. Our Members enable us to: maintain our commitment to greater public awareness of environmental concerns in the Meadowlands, provide innovative programming, and expand our services.

In appreciation of the financial support our Members provide us we offer special "Members Only" events. This month we offer *at no cost* the following event for our members:

Forest, Ecology & People in Western Amazonia

Presented by: Dr. Eric Wiener

Date: June 12th, 2006

Time: 7:00 pm
 Place: Meadowlands Environment Center
 RSVP: Kristen Crawford - 201-460-4623

Dr. Eric Wiener is the Environmental Scholar in Residence at the Meadowlands Environment Center, Professor of Environmental Science at Ramapo College of New Jersey, and has served as a visiting professor at La Universidad Nacional de la Amazonia Peruana (National University of the Peruvian Amazon).

Come see his slide presentation and learn about some of his insights to the largest remaining area of tropical rainforest on earth, and see how the work he and his colleagues are doing may be a catalyst to help Amazonian people conserve their forests.

If you are not already a member and would like to join and attend this event, please contact Kristen.

For our long-time members, we would like you to know that Ms. Crawford will be handling membership inquiries and questions while your usual contact Michelle Gamarello is on her honeymoon.

MEC staff congratulates Michelle and Vincent.

[For more information on the Membership Program, please click here](#)

MEC Partnerships: Meadowlands Liberty Convention & Visitors Bureau

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We are pleased to announce that Lara Rodriguez, Associate Director of Marketing and Outreach for the Meadowlands Environment Center has received an appointment from the Meadowlands Regional Chamber of Commerce to serve on its Tourism Advisory Council.

The Tourism Advisory Council will provide the Board of Directors of the Meadowlands Regional Chamber of Commerce with advice and information relevant to the activities of the Meadowlands Liberty Convention & Visitors Bureau.

[For more information on the Meadowlands Liberty Convention and Visitors Bureau, please click here](#)

### **MEC Partnerships: Nature Program Cooperative**

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June NPC Event

Night Sounds and Summer Sky Stories

An evening at Poplar Road Sanctuary

Hosted by: Bergen SWAN and Palisades Nature Association
 (Greenbrook Sanctuary)

Location: Poplar Road Nature Sanctuary, River Vale

When: June 3rd, *rain date June 25th*

Time: 7:30 - 9:30 pm

General Cost: Minimum contribution of \$5 per adult is requested.

Member Cost: Free

Note: Pre-Registration required, attendance will be limited to 25 people.

This first ever guided evening walk through the mysterious Poplar Road woods will focus

on the night songs of wildlife as we transition into summer.

Learn how to recognize some of the insects, amphibians, birds and mammals of the night and their associated sounds and scents. At the end of the walk, you will take advantage of the new moon and the open sky and learn how to recognize some summer constellations and learn more about their stories.

Please call Bergen SWAN at 201-666-1877 to register and get directions to the Sanctuary. For additional information, call Bergen SWAN or e-mail to bergenswan@sprynet.com, using subject "Night Walk Info Request."

[To learn more about the Nature Program Cooperative and these programs, please click here](#)

NJMC: Art in the Flyway Gallery

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### Charlie Churchill's "Meadowlandscapes"

June 1st through June 30th

#### Public reception

Saturday, June 3rd

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Meadowlands Environment Center lobby

[To learn more about this month's NJMC Flyway Gallery event, please click here](#)

## NJMC: Boat Cruises in June

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Available Dates

June 1st

June 14th

June 15th

June 29th

June 30th

Departing at 5:30 from the River Barge Park and Marina in Carlstadt.

The suggested minimum donation is \$15 per person. Pre-registration is required. To register or for more information, please call (201) 460-4640. Special cruises are available for educational, civic and other groups. All boats are fully equipped and piloted by Coast Guard qualified captains.

[For more information on the NJMC pontoon boat program, please click here...](#)

NJMC: Canoe Trip in June

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### Sunday, June 18th

Fathers Day

10:00 am

*Launching at Saw Mill Creek Lyndhurst or Mill Creek, Secaucus - please specify.*

We supply all the equipment and give you helpful tips before setting out on the water.

Canoes are provided at a cost of \$15 per person.

Pre- registration is required. Groups are welcome.

For more information or to book a tour, please call (201) 460-4640.

[To learn more about the NJMC canoe program, please click here](#)

### Ramapo: "Infection" visits the MEC

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Ramapo College students from the Masters in Educational Technology graduate course "Infection", led by Dr. Rena Bacon, visited the Center in May as part of their classroom experience. The purpose of the trip to the Center was for the students to examine issues effecting the health of the Hackensack River and its

tributaries. While here, students; participated in biological sampling, identified animals found within DeKorte Park and conducted tests to come to an overall impression of the water quality within our area of the Meadowlands.

Reminder: Eco-triathlon

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**Visit the event website to obtain Meadowlands Liberty Eco-Triathlon information on the following:**

- Triathlon Flyer
- Triathlon Information
- Directions to Triathlon
- Triathlon Application

[For more Meadowlands Liberty Eco-Triathlon information, please click here](#)

### Update: Meadowfest

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Saturday, June 10th

11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Laurel Hill County Park in Secaucus

rain date June 11th

Meadowfest is a free festival honoring the environment, history and recovery of the remarkable Hackensack River, which flows through the heart of the famed New Jersey Meadowlands. A sea of swaying marsh grass crisscrossed by steams, creeks and rivers is home to thousands of

species of flora and fauna all residing in the shadows of Manhattan. This one-day event will feature an exceptional mix of environmental education, fun attractions, boat rides, displays and food.

Visit the event website for information on:

- Meadowfest in general
- The Environmental Science Fair
- The Passport to Fun Learning program
- Eco-boat Tours at Meadowfest
- Entertainment
- Food
- Participants list
- Directions

[For up-to-the minute information on Meadowfest activities, please click here](#)

Quick Links...

- [MEC Website](#)
- [MEC Schedule of Events Registration](#)
- [MEC School Program Registration](#)
- [New Jersey Meadowlands Commission](#)
- [Ramapo College of New Jersey](#)
- [Meadowlands Conservation Trust](#)

Lara Rodriguez

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web: <http://njmeadowlands.gov/ec>

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